In Parenthesis

Small Size

"THESE gloves are about six sizes too small for me."

"Well, you asked for kid gloves, didn't you?"

* * *

Enough

THE Aberdonian walked at the tail of the funeral procession.

"Are you one of the mourners?" asked the undertaker.

"Am I no?" was his reply, "he owed me twa pounds."

* * *

Cookery

NEWLY-WED Husband—"Do you mean to say there's only one course for dinner to-night? Just cheese?"

Wife—"Yes, dear. You see, when the chops caught fire and fell into the sweets I had to use the soup to put it out."

* * *

Ample Proof

COUNSEL—to the police witness: "But if a man is on his hands and knees in the middle of the road, that doesn't prove he was drunk!"

Policeman: "No sir, it does not. But this one was trying to roll up the white line."

* * *

So Sudden

HE was telling her about the members of the football team.

"Now,' there's Johnson," said he, "in a few weeks he will be our best man."

And then she lisped, "Oh, Jack, this is so sudden!"

* * *

Rest Cure

DOCTOR—"What your husband needs, Mrs. Nagget, is a complete rest. I have prescribed a sleeping draught."

Mrs. N.—"Very well, doctor, when shall I gave it to him?"

Doctor—"Don't give it to him at all. Take it yourself."

* * *

Ad Infinitum

CLOTHIER: "Were you pleased with the overcoat I sold you?"

Customer: "Oh, yes. All my boys have worn it."

Clothier: "Well, well!"

Customer: "Yes: each time it has been worn in the rain the next smaller one had to take it."

* * *

Warning

A POULTRY farmer had been losing chickens from his chicken-coops. He inserted the following advertisement in the local newspaper:—

"Anyone found near my chicken-house at night will be found there next morning."

No more chickens have been missed.

* * *

Hey! That Man's In Again!

"I'D hate to part with this colt now. You see, I haven't any children and—"

"How can you compare a colt with children! Children can go to college, carve out careers for themselves, but a colt—a horse could never become President."

"No, not a President. But a friend of mine had a colt once that grew up to be a mare."

* * *

Never Satisfied

THE street performer was addressing the crowd. "Ladies an' gents—in a few minutes," he said, "I will astonish you by eatin' coal, stones an' nails. I will also swallow a long sword. After which I shall come round among you with the hat, trustin' to get enough for a crust of bread."

"Lumme!" cried a voice from the back. "Still 'ungry!"

* * *

As per Schedule

A SALESMAN who had been travelling on a certain railway for a number of years was complaining about the trains always being late, when, to his surprise, the train came in on time.

He immediately went to the conductor and said, "Here's a cigar, I want to congratulate you. I have travelled this road for fifteen years and this is the first time I have caught a train on time."

"Keep the cigar," said the conductor, "this is yesterday's train."

* * *

Cause for Fear

THE old signalman was the most important witness at an action for damages—a man had been knocked down at a level crossing.

At the cross-examination he persisted that he waved his lantern frantically, but in vain.

"You were excellent," said the superintendent, patting him on the back afterwards. "I was afraid you might break down."

"No fear," was the proud reply, "but I was a little nervous. I thought that bloke was going to ask me if the lantern was lighted."

* * *

By Weight

A NEW restaurant opened its doors with this announcement:— "Value here! We charge you by weight! We weigh you coming in, then we weigh you going out! You pay the difference!"

A fellow in a shabby overcoat secreted a heavy stone in one of his pockets, and had the biggest meal of his life. Then he quietly slipped the stone out of sight, and stepped on the scales again.

The proprietor stared in dismay at the indicator, donned his spectacles to make sure, then groused, "Well, I suppose it can't be helped, mister, but it seems I owe you fivepence."

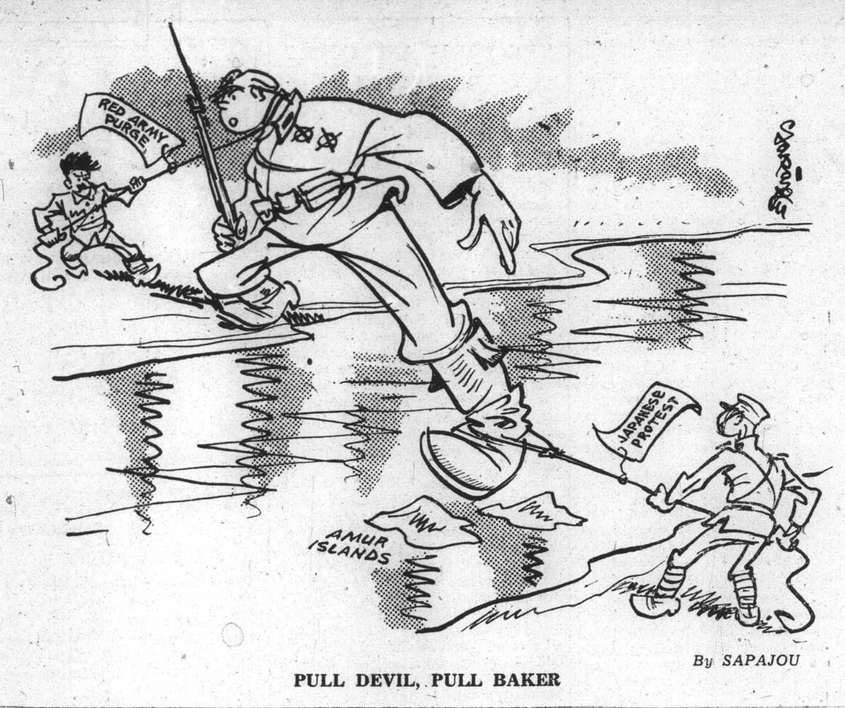
Sixty Years Ago

FROM THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS," OF JULY 1, 1877

From Newchwang:—On the 6th of the 5th moon June 16, the new native tax came into force. On all imports the fee which was charged was 3½ mace per Tls. 100. It is now to be 7 mace per Tls. 100 (double) on arrivals per junks and foreign vessels. Shipments per foreign vessels, which were not taxed before, are now to pay 4 mace (four mace) per Tls. 100. The troops, which the Taotai says are wanted by the Tartar General, have not arrived yet, and the extra impost is required to pay towards their maintenance. It is possible that more force is necessary to put down brigandage; but I should not be surprised if the near approach of the Russians whose quarters are unpleasantly near to the Empire—some say they are actually on Chinese territory, were the *bête noire* to be put down, as much as the sword racks or mounted highwaymen.

* * *

The Tokyo "Times" reports the arrival at Yokohama of Mr. Cadweller, former Assistant Secretary of State at Washington. It is stated he is shortly expected in Shanghai.



By SAPAJOU

PULL DEVIL, PULL BAKER

London Letter

HIGH RATES FOR ELECTRICITY

Shanghai Charges Negligible Compared to English: Blunders of Commission

BY O. M. GREEN

(Editor, "North-China Daily News," 1911-1930)

London, June 9.

Old residents of Shanghai on retiring to England have at least one memory (which is not to say they may not have others) for which they sigh. That is Shanghai's electricity supply.

There is no public service in England so ill co-ordinated and in many districts so grossly overcharged as electricity. In the International Settlement our electric light bills were negligible; even in the French Concession, they were nothing to worry about. Here in our village 20 miles from Hyde Park Corner, and served from a considerable river-side town which boasts at least two flourishing industries, we are charged 6½d. a unit, and only get a 100-volt-service (which is simply antediluvian) and indifferent at that. There is also a strong report that our company manufactures no electricity itself but buys it from Chiswick at 3d. a unit and merely converts it to our voltage.

Yet we are perhaps fortunate. There are far bigger places than ours, nearer London, where as much as 8d. is charged.

For years an agitation has been going on to get better treatment for consumers, lower charges and more uniformity in them. A Commission was set up not long ago presided over by Lord McGowan, which recommended a series of amalgamations and groupings of suppliers and rates to be charged. Unfortunately this Commission was against anything savouring of State management, which caused our bureaucrats to throw its report on the dust heap.

Commission's Report Denounced

Now the bureaucrats have produced a scheme. There has been a row because it was communicated to the "juice" suppliers before it had been made known to Parliament. But with actual publication of the document there is a still bigger row.

The Electricity Commissioners appear to have taken the framework of the McGowan scheme, but have concentrated all power in their own hands, throwing upon the suppliers the responsibility of management, but denying them freedom of action in every detail.

Most papers I have seen have damned these proposals wholeheartedly and according to the "Financial News" the reception has been so bad that the Government has decided to disown paternity. The scheme, it is said, must be received as merely tentative. Which presumably means that it will follow its predecessor to the dust heap.

Electricity is but one instance of the many problems that arise to-day from trying to fit local bodies into a national framework and make them think and act on national lines, instead of in the watertight compartments which suited our fathers, who scarcely moved from their home towns once a year and thought in "small-town" grooves.

There are in Great Britain 628 authorized distributors of electricity, of which 371 are municipal and 247 private companies. To co-ordinate such a hotchpotch is obviously difficult. All the same one would like to know why Worthing, for example, non-industrial and virtually dead for eight months in the year, can sell electric light for a penny a unit, and a huge London suburb must charge fivepence or sevenpence.

Pacific Pact Perplexities

Mr. Lyons, the Australian Premier's proposal for a Pacific Pact is causing much perplexity in what may be called the inner and near-inner circles. Exactly what it would imply is not yet known, but in some quarters one hears that "things are moving towards a satisfactory outcome." This, however, may be the wish that is parent to the thought.

There are two schools of thought on the subject. First there are the usual "internationally-minded" who in defiance of bitter experience continue to pin their faith on conferences of the greatest possible number of peoples to achieve salvation.

The Chinese appear to be of this party, in the hope that by bringing in Russia and America they would have a stronger guarantee against Japan.

On the other hand are those who recall that the last attempt at a Pacific Pact, namely the Nine Power Treaty, is deader than mutton, and that the whole record of international conferences and pacts is one of disappointed hopes. Furthermore, that a Pacific Conference under present conditions must involve so great a number of stiff questions, that the utmost that could be hoped of it would be general aspirations and resolutions riddled with loopholes.

These people urge that Japan (who notoriously distrusts international conferences) is unquestionably eager for an entente with Great Britain, and, for the most part, equally anxious to come to a settlement on amicable lines with China. There are, however, issues between China and Japan which it seems as if they never could settle unaided.

Hence the argument that Great Britain might combine her own interest in China's welfare, with Japan's readiness for a rapprochement, in order to act in some sort as mediator between China and Japan, to ensure the rights of the former and to arrange for herself an understanding with the latter.

The people who argue thus also point out with undoubted force, that Japan on the whole is now in the right mind to come out of her isolation, be neighbourly and make friendly bargains. Of which she has given many signs, official and unofficial. If the psychological moment is lost and no response is made to her olive-branches, her pride may be wounded and she may be driven into the wilderness with incalculably serious results.

Labour's Left Wing Rebels

The vigorous efforts of the official Labour Party Executive to crush their left-wing rebels are a significant phase of the political whirlpool.

Last Saturday a meeting of the left-wingers—the Independent Labour Party and Communists—was held at Hull presided over, of course, by Sir Stafford Cripps. Mr. Strauss, M.P., our millionaire Bolshevik, received a letter from the Labour Executive, (which of course applies to lesser lights) that if he associated with I. L. P. and Communists, he would be expelled from the Labour Party.

Last night it was announced that the Executive of the Transport and General Workers' Union had suspended the Central Bus Committee pending an inquiry into its operations. It was this Committee, you will remember, composed of extremists which defied the Transport Union Executive and kept the bus strike dragging on for three fruitless weeks.

Its reply to this pole-axing is not yet known. Its ability to do anything is doubtful: the men won't come out again.

At Hull the meeting furiously denounced the Labour Executive's "new heresy hunt." But all the same it has had to change its tactics. The Socialist League, which tried to form with the I.L.P. and Communists a "united front" on the Continental lines, has bowed before the Labour Executive's displeasure and dissolved itself. The rest of the left-wingers at Hull decided also to dissolve their joint committee, so that their members might work within the Labour Party by the usual cell methods to achieve their ends.

Communists Gain Prominence

The motives of the Labour Executive are fairly obvious. Their present chances of getting back into power are still as remote as ever, and are certainly not improved by Sir Stafford Cripps's well-advertised speeches, by the prominence which the Communists have been gaining under Comrade Harry Pollitt's leadership, and last but by no means least by the offensive and unnecessary bus strike.

Extremism it is abundantly clear never pays in England, and every indication that the Red Tail is wagging the Corduroy Dog would eagerly be caught up by the party in power to keep Labour out of power still longer.

So extremism must be suppressed, and under the clever leadership of Mr. Herbert Morrison a campaign is being launched to capture 1,000,000 recruits for Socialism—no doubt from that "silent Liberal vote" which has lately stood aloof from all elections. Masses of literature on Socialist policy are being prepared, and popular meetings are to be held during the summer months at 80 different seaside resorts.

Whether these will prove more popular than sunbathing and side-shows is perhaps doubtful. But Mr. Herbert Morrison is a genius in attack, and his opponents had better take warning.

Heavy Fine for Smuggling

If you're thinking of smuggling a little silk or other contraband into England, think again. At Croydon yesterday Lady Prescott, wife of a baronet, was fined no less than £1,500 (the addition of two guineas cost seems rather a pathos) for trying to smuggle jewellery, hats, a silk night gown and some furs. Their total value was £680. 10s., the duty on them would have been £203. 18s. 4d. And the lady has to pay £1,500 besides cutting an extremely poor figure in Court.

She had arrived at Croydon by aeroplane from Paris on April 26 and declared some silk goods on which she paid £5. 10s. 8d duty. Then the Customs found an empty jewel case in her hatbox: where were the contents? Lady Prescott produced two ruby and diamond dress clips from her bag, and said she had bought them in London and taken them to Paris with her. But she found it "rather difficult to say" where in London she had bought them.

Further search revealed two hats. Yes these had been bought in Paris: Lady Prescott had forgotten to declare them.

A similar forgetfulness applied to a cotton golf costume bought in Berlin. A fur cape hanging on Lady Prescott's arm was excused by her as a gift, which had been worn; and as it was not made of silk she did not think it necessary to declare it. A diamond, gold and silver vanity box was not new; but Lady Prescott had to admit having smuggled it in on a previous journey from France.

The best Lady Prescott's lawyer could say for her was that she had lost her head and told a great many untruths, and that her manner to the Customs officials had been perfectly courteous, not abusive as some detected smugglers become. The magistrates did not become abusive either, but they said a great deal about Lady Prescott's behaviour which one would be very sorry to hear about oneself.

Moral for Travellers

The moral of the story is obvious to all experienced travellers. Open up all trunks and be ready to show everything. Customs officials at Dover and Croydon have a reputation for being harsh, probably they have more cause to be than their colleagues elsewhere. But I have been through Channel ports many times and like others who have adopted the "open door" tactics have found them lenient enough. I can't help thinking that if Lady Prescott had had clean bill in other respects she would have got away with that fur cape, which was a gift, had been worn, and wasn't made of silk.

BLUE MOSQUITOES CAUSE TRANSVAAL PANIC

The appearance of dark blue mosquitoes struck terror in a certain area of northern Transvaal, where a most severe epidemic of malaria was already raging. Local residents feared some new horror until the clerk of a country store, observing something wriggling in an inkwell discovered it to be full of mosquito larvæ, in which apparently they had bred.

Malaria is now raging over a wide area of northern Transvaal, where the majority of natives are laid low by the disease and few Europeans are still able to carry on.

All hospitals within the stricken area are filled to overflowing, including large marquees erected in the grounds; in some cases private houses have been converted into temporary clearing stations.

Railways in these areas are suffering severely owing to the depletion of the European staffs. Farmers are unable to reap their crops, which are rotting in the ground owing to an almost complete absence of native labourers.

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NAVIGATION ON THE AMUR RIVER

Soviet Gunboats Restrain Other Vessels

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Harbin, June 23.

The old question of navigation on the Amur has again cropped up, owing to no agreement having been reached between the U.S.S.R. and Manchoukuo, and now news has come to hand of an engagement on that river near Pojarkovo, it being alleged that Soviet gunboats fired on the Manchoukuo patrol boats, which were navigating the northern channel on the Soviet side of the river.

Pojarkovo has always been a moot point, as the water in the south channel at this point, is very seldom deep enough to permit of vessels passing.

Those who have travelled up and down the Amur, know very well that at this point, they always used to pass so close to the Russian side, that it was possible to throw a stone on the river bank, vessels of more than three feet draught, not being able to navigate the southern channel.

With no agreement on the subject of navigation, it seems that the Soviet government refuse to permit Manchoukuoan, and more particularly Japanese vessels, to use the northern channel, and naturally, if they do so, they run the risk of being fired at by Soviet gunboats.

The Japanese are angered because they are not allowed to use the northern channel, and thus are unable to send vessels from the Sungari up the Amur to Sakhalen, but considering that the right of way along this channel is indispensable for Manchoukuo, would it not be better to make some concession on the point, rather than deliberately force the passage, thus compelling the Soviet to use force, or else place themselves under the impression of showing weakness, if they were to permit its use by Manchoukuoan and Japanese ships. The firmness of the Soviet side will probably result in the Japanese coming to terms quicker on the matter of navigation of the Amur.

From the eastern frontier news comes in of clashes between the local troops and the Soviet, and in almost all cases, it may safely be said that these clashes occur because the two sides have different views as to where the frontier line actually runs.

Sheep Rearing in Manchoukuo

At present much is being written on the question of sheep rearing in this country, and purchases have been made of sheep, both from Australia and America, for the purpose of improving the breed and getting a better fleece. The main point, however, is that the climate is not suitable, and no matter what breed is brought here, within a year the fleece becomes rougher, to save the animal from the severe winter cold. If the sheep are imported in the spring, it is possible to get a fleece equal to that which they give in their home country, but by the following year, the quality of the wool will be much lower, and there is no way of counteracting this.

From time to time it has been stated that deposits of petroleum had been discovered, particularly in the Hingan Range, but in all cases they proved to be incorrect and after large sums of money had been spent in drilling the schemes were given up. Now a group of Japanese engineers say that they have discovered oil not far from Harbin. Their story is that some peasants stated that they had seen some black oily substance floating on Lake Shisuitsi, about 25 kilometres from here, on the Sungari river. The engineers investigated and report that they discovered oil deposits of two kilometres in length and one kilometre in width. They brought a barrel of the oil to Harbin and are making an analysis of it, and if it proves to be of sufficiently good quality, they propose to form a company and drain the lake.

CHINA'S SKIES FOR JULY

1.—Saturn in conjunction with Moon, 6.53 p.m. S. 7° 47′ S.
4.—Mercury in Perihelion, 1 a.m.
4.—Uranus in conjunction with Moon, 7.40 a.m. U. 3° 17′ S.
5.—Venus in conjunction with Moon, 7.11 a.m. V. 4° 45′ S.
5.—Earth in Aphelion, greatest distance from the Sun, 94,454,300 miles, 11 a.m.
8.—Mercury in conjunction with Moon, 0.27 p.m. M. 4° 5′ N.
8.—Mercury in Superior conjunction with Sun, 7 p.m.
13.—Neptune in conjunction with Moon, 2.12 a.m. N. 6° 47′ N.
15.—Jupiter in opposition with Sun, 4 p.m.
18.—Mars occulted by the Moon, 5.09 a.m.
18.—Saturn at Stationary point, 6 p.m.
23.—Jupiter in conjunction with Moon, 4.59 a.m. J. 3° 34′ S.
29.—Saturn in conjunction with Moon, 0.29 a.m. S. 7° 44′ S.
31.—Uranus in conjunction with Moon, 3.13 p.m. U. 3° 3′ S.

Constellations at 9 p.m.

In the north, Draco and Ursa Minor are above Polaris on the meridian, Ursa Major in west, Cepheus east, and Cassiopeia below to the east. In the east, Pegasus is rising, the Dolphin is now well up, Cygnus almost midway to the meridian, and Lyra is still higher; east of the meridian are Hercules, and Serpentarius; Corona is on the meridian, to the west of which lie Bootes and Canes Venatici Along the Ecliptic—Capricornus is rising, Sagittarius (the Archer) is next, Scorpius is directly south, Libra is past the meridian, Virgo midway, and Leo has almost reached the horizon. The Milky Way crosses the sky from N.N.E. to S.S.W. The Zodiacal Light may be observed in northwest in the first week.

Phases of the Moon

1.—Last Quarter	9.03 p.m.
8.—New Moon	0.13 p.m.
15.—First Quarter	5.36 p.m.
23.—Full Moon	8.46 p.m.
31.—Last Quarter	2.47 a.m.
6.—Moon in Perigee	5 p.m.
18.—Moon in Apogee	6 p.m.

RISING AND SETTING OF THE MOON

Rises	Souths	Sets
4.—0.57 a.m.	7.57 a.m.	3.02 p.m.
11.—8.12 a.m.	2.45 p.m.	9.10 p.m.
18.—2.48 p.m.	8.04 p.m.	0.36 a.m.
25.—7.54 p.m.	0.57 a.m.	6.41 a.m.

Rising and Setting of the Sun

Rises	Equat. of time	Sets
4.—5.02	Add 4 min. 2 sec.	7.06
11.—5.05	Add 5 min. 11 sec.	7.05
18.—5.09	Add 5 min. 59 sec.	7.03
25.—5.14	Add 6 min. 21 sec.	7.00

Aspects of Principal Planets

Mercury being in Superior conjunction with the Sun on the 8th, is a morning star in the first week, and an evening star afterwards, but this will not be a favourable opportunity for its naked-eye observation. Rises on 1st at 4.19 a.m.; on 16th it sets at 7.45 p.m.

Venus is a morning star moving in Taurus. In conjunction with the Pleiades on the 4th, with Aldebaran on the 16th. It rises on the 1st at 2.10 a.m.; on the 16th at 2.04 a.m.; on the 31st at 2.07 a.m.

Mars moves now eastward in Libra, and will be seen west of south in the early evening. Magnitude —1.1 to —1.6. Sets on 1st at 1.52 a.m.; on 16th at 0.51 a.m.

Jupiter, being in opposition with the Sun on the 15th is in the south near midnight, and above the horizon, but low down, almost through the night. Magnitude —2.3. Rises on 1st at 8.00 p.m.; passes the meridian on the 16th at 0.05 a.m. and at 12 o'clock.

Saturn is a morning star moving from the constellation Capricornus into Aquarius. It rises about midnight at the end of the month. Its rings are now pretty well visible, the Earth being 5.57 degrees south of their plane. Rises on 1st at 11.42 p.m.; on 16th at 10.44 p.m.

Uranus, moving in the constellation Aries, rises on 1st at 1.27 a.m. on 16th at 0.30 a.m.; on 31st at 11.28 p.m.

Neptune sets before midnight in the constellation Leo, on 1st at 10.53 p.m.; on 16th at 9.55 p.m.

Satellites of Mars

Mars is attended by two moons, discovered by Prof. Asaph Hall in August, 1877 with the great telescope of the Washington Observatory. Their names are Phobos and Deimos (the steeds or attendants of Mars). They are both very small (star magnitude 14 and 13), probably less than 15 miles in diameter, Phobos being somewhat the larger. Phobos revolves about its primary in 7 hours 39 minutes at 5,850 miles distance, and Deimos in 30 hours 18 minutes at a distance of about 14,650 miles, both nearly in the equator of Mars. Mars rotates in its axis in 24 hr. 37 min. 23 sec. Phobos, therefore, occupies the unique position in the solar system of a satellite revolving about its primary in less time than the primary takes to rotate on its axis. It follows that to an hypothetical inhabitant of that planet the moon would seem to rise in the west and set in the east, passing through all the phases of our moon during a single night. This its rapid angular motion enables it to do at least twice a day. Deimos, the outer of the two moons, has an angular movement is its orbit round Mars less than that of Mars on its axis, but so great that this satellite may remain above the horizon of a point on the planet for about two and a half days at a time.

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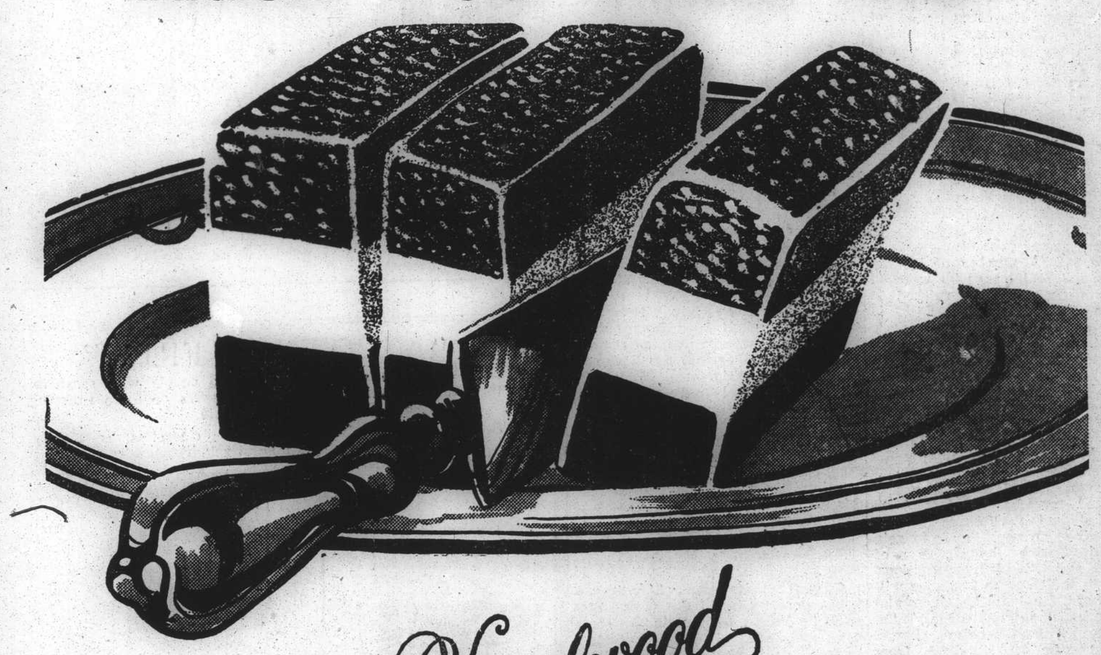

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